

**NORTHEASTERN GREAT BASIN  
RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 20-21, 2000  
Battle Mountain, Nevada**

**January 20, 2000**

**Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Members Present and Category Represented:**

Mr. Larry Barngrover	(3) State Agency
Ms. Patsy Tomera	(3) Public At Large
Mr. Vince Garcia	(3) Native American
Mr. Bob Edwards	(1) Transportation & ROW
Mr. DeLoyd Satterthwaite	(1) Livestock
Mr. Bill Upton, Chairman	(1) Mining
Mr. Hudson Glimp	(3) Academic
Mr. Dave Tattam	(2) Wild Horses
Ms. Kathy Ataman	(2) Archaeologic & History
Mr. Jon Muller	(2) Recreation
Mr. Scott Egbert	(1) Livestock
Ms. Teresa Conner	(1) Mining
Mr. Merlin McColm	(2) Wildlife

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Representatives Present:**

Mr. Bob Stewart	Nevada State Office
Mr. Gene Kolkman	Field Manager, Ely Field Office
Ms. Helen Hankins	Field Manager, Elko Field Office
Mr. Gerald Smith	Field Manager, Battle Mt. Field Office
Mr. Clint Oke	Elko Field Office
Ms. Meg Jensen	Nevada State Office
Mr. Dave Stout	Elko Field Office
Mr. Eric Janes	Washington Office
Mr. Curtis Tucker	Ely Field Office
Mr. Jeff Weeks	Battle Mt. Field Office
Mr. Gail Givens	Battle Mt. Field Office

**Other Attendees:**

Ms. Lucia Machado	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Mr. Tebeau Pequet	NW Sierra RAC
Mr. San Stiver	Nevada Division of Wildlife
Mr. Gary N. Back	Northern Nevada Stewardship Group
Ms. Leta Collord	Northern Nevada Stewardship Group
Ms. Julie Stiver	Nevada Division of Wildlife

Note to Readers: A copy of each attachment listed in the text of, and at the end of these minutes is on file with the official copy of the minutes in the Ely Field Office of the BLM. Persons

desiring to view attachments should contact Mr. Curtis Tucker at (775) 289-1841.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Upton. Welcome and introduction of members and guests followed.

Logistics for current meeting were discussed (arrangement of speakers to better fit their flight schedules, etc.). There were no conflicts and the meeting went forward.

**\* Minutes of the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting: After a brief discussion and a correction on the bottom of page 7, Deloyd Satterthwaite made a motion that the minutes be approved. It was seconded by Patsy Tomera, all were in favor.**

**\* Minutes of the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting: After a brief discussion and a correction on page 3, “bureau” to “DOI”, Patsy Tomera made a motion that the minutes be approved. It was seconded by Deloyd Satterthwaite, all were in favor.**

#### I. STANDARDS & GUIDELINES WILD HORSE & BURRO:

\* Jeff Weeks passed out copies of the most current language for WH&B S&G’s (Attachment #1). The document was prepared using information from the current Standards & Guidelines for Livestock and combining it with language agreed upon at previous Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council (RAC) meetings, from conversations with individual RAC members, the WH&B Subcommittee and WH&B Standards & Guidelines developed by the Mohave Southern Resource Advisory Council.

\* Black lettering-language from Standards and Guidelines approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997.

\* Red lettering-changes recommended at previous meeting and language based on Jeff’s experience and conversations with RAC members.

#### **\* Preamble and S&G’s:**

\*Consider “expeditiously” in Preamble.

\*Add explanation of “grazing” to Glossary.

\*Combine similar Guidelines to include “livestock” and “wild horse & burro” language thereby shortening the document and eliminating redundancy.

\*Add Guideline 4.2 to Cultural Resources Guidelines.

#### **\* Intended Use of Standards & Guidelines:**

**\*Motion to accept as written by Dave Tattam and seconded by Scott Egbert.**

\*Recommendation to delete “and in” from the last sentence.

**\*Motion to accept “Intended Use” with “and in” removed by Hudson Glimp and seconded by Dave Tattam-all in favor.**

- \* Public Comment Period-no comments at this time.**
- \* Adjourned for lunch.**

**\* WH&B S&G’S-RESUMED IN THE AFTERNOON AS FOLLOWS:**

- \* Updated version of WH&B S&G’s was distributed (Attachment #1)**
- \* Blue lettering-changes made during the morning session.**

**\* Preamble:**

**\*Hudson Glimp made a motion to accept Preamble with changes made in AM. Seconded by Bob Edwards-all in favor.**

**\* Standard & Guidelines I, Upland Sites:**

**\*Motion to accept with changes made in AM by Patsy Tomera. Seconded by Jon Muller-all in favor.**

**\* Standard & Guidelines II, Riparian and Wetland Sites:**

**\*Motion was made to accept S&G II by Hudson Glimp. Seconded by Kathy Ataman-no decision.**

**\*Discussion-It was suggested that “practices” be removed from the entire document.**

**\*Motion to strike “practices” made and seconded-all in favor.**

**\* Standard & Guidelines III, Habitat:**

**\*Motion to adopt S&G III by Bob Edwards with changes to 3.2 so that “Wild horse & burro population levels” would begin the sentence. Seconded by Jon Muller-no decision**

**\*Motion by Dave Tattam to amend 3.2 so it would read “Livestock grazing, intensity, frequency, season of use and distribution, and wild horse & burro population levels”. Seconded by Vince Garcia-all in favor.**

**\*Motion to accept S&G III with approved changes was made and seconded-all in favor.**

**\* Standard & Guidelines IV, Cultural Resources:**

**\*Motion to adopt S&G IV with changes to 4.2 (change “minimize” to “avoid or mitigate” and add “significant” before cultural resources) was made by Patsy Tomera. Seconded by Teresa Conner-all in favor.**

**\* Standard & Guidelines V, Healthy Wild Horse & Burro Populations:**

\*Discussion regarding “condition class”(attachment #2), how level 5 was decided upon and that it is only an indicator of a healthy herd.

**\*Motion to adopt Guideline 5.3 with changes to read, “Set appropriate Management Levels based on the most limiting habitat factor (eg. available water, suitable forage, living space and cover) in the context of multiple-use”, was made by Jon Muller. Seconded by Kathy Ataman-all in favor.**

\*Discussion about 5.4, 5, 6 & 7-historical significance, genetic & adoptability.

**\*Motion by Patsy Tomera to adopt 5.4, 5, 6 & 7, with “diversity” added after genetic in 5.7. Seconded by Hudson Glimp-all in favor.**

\* Discussion as to whether we would have a quorum with Kathy Ataman’s absence. It was determined that we would.

**\*Motion by Dave Tattam to delete 5.8 due to redundancy. Seconded by Hudson Glimp-all in favor.**

**\*Motion by Scott Egbert to adopt 5.2 with the addition of “for all multiple users” at the end of the sentence. Seconded by Patsy Tomera-all in favor.**

**\*Motion to adopt S&G V with all changes by Hudson Glimp. Seconded-all in favor.**

\* **Glossary:**

**\*Motion by Kathy Ataman to adopt Glossary with changes showing in red and blue ink, and to add the definition for “equine body condition chart”. Seconded by Bob Edwards-all in favor.**

\* Jerry Smith handed out “Approval process for WH&B S&G’s” (Attachment #3).

\* WH&B S&G’S RESUMED JANUARY 21, 2000:

\* It was discovered that not all S&G’s were voted on the previous day.

**\*Motion was made by Bob Edwards to adopt WH&B S&G’s in its entirety (based on conversations of previous day). Seconded by Scott Egbert-all in favor.**

\* Discussed process for approval of WH&B S&G’s. S&G’s will go through several groups and agencies, including BLM Nevada State Office prior to being sent to Washington. Will also be reviewed for consistency with current land use plans. It most likely will be sent to the Department of the Interior’s Solicitor’s office prior to being sent to Secretary Babbitt for signature. Consequently, it may come back to the RAC, at least once, prior to approval.

\* All three field managers (Jerry Smith, Helen Hankins & Gene Kolkman), stated their support of the WH&B document.

- \* It was determined that Bill Upton would work with Curtis Tucker on a cover letter. It will be forwarded to the other RAC members for their input within the next few weeks.
- \* It was recommended that the RAC might want to make presentations to some of the other groups concerning the WH&B S&G's.
- \* Jeff will send out clean copies with all changes.

## II. SAGE GROUSE: Presentation by San Stiver, Nevada Division of Wildlife

- \*Effort to prevent listing of Sage Grouse under Endangered Species Act.
- \*(Attachment #4)
- \*Sage Grouse issues have become critical..
- \*Perpetuate sagebrush ecosystem (Sage Grouse are dependent on Sage)
- \*Encourage state, counties & local groups to develop and implement conservation plans that will increase Sage Grouse numbers and habitat..

**Adjourn 1215-lunch**  
**Re-convene 1315**

## III. COMMUNITY BASED PARTNERSHIPS: Presentation by Leta Collord and Gary Back Northeastern Nevada Stewardship Group

- \*Currently working on Sage Grouse Conservation Plan.
- \*(Attachment #'s 5 & 6)

## IV. CLEAN WATER ACTION PLAN: Eric B. Janes, Senior Hydrologist, USDI BLM

- \*(Attachment #'s 7 & 8)
- \* CWAP, cont.: Lucia Machado, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
- \*State uses Federal Funds available through CWAP to help with on-the-ground projects.
- \*Want to form partnerships at the local level.
- \*Effort to improve water quality at the watershed level.
- \*The Humbolt watershed is divided into Lower, Upper and Middle sections and is prioritized for the state at #'s 12, 13 and 14.
- \*Expect to accomplish approximately 6 priorities each fiscal year.

\*There is approximately \$140,000 set aside for each of the Humbolt divisions.

\*These can be combined for one big project or left separate as three smaller projects.

\*This is an opportunity for the State of Nevada to demonstrate that it is pro-active concerning water quality.

\*Water quality standards are set by the state.

\*The purpose of the partnerships will be to determine which projects are necessary to get the watershed into a condition that will support the pre-set standards.

\*Information will be forthcoming as to the percentage of streams that are in compliance in Nevada at this time.

\* **Public Comment Period-no comments at this time.**

\* Handouts from Nevada State BLM office. (Attachment #'s 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15)

\*#9-Guidance for BLM Resource Advisory Council Coordinators

\*#10-Federal Partners Project Charter

\*#11-Riparian Ecology and Management

\*#12-Rangeland Riparian Management and Monitoring

\*#13-Memo from Brent Heberlee, Office of Senator Richard Bryan

\*#14- OHV Management Strategy to be Developed by BLM

\*#15-Q&A Relating to the BLM's Development of an Off-Highway Vehicle Management Strategy

\* **DAY 2, JANUARY 21, 2000:**

#### **V. 3809 REGULATIONS:**

\* Bill Upton drafted a letter supporting the proposed revision to the Surface Management Regulation (30 CFR Part 3809). (Attachment #16)

\* Helen gave update as to where the 3809 task force is in relation to this activity. It is the intention of the Department of the Interior that the final rule and the final EIS go to OMB by August 1, 2000. It is hoped that the final regulations will be published before October 1, 2000. Currently going through comments from the first public comment period. They will be meeting in Washington the 1<sup>st</sup> of March to review all the public comments and identify any issues that will need to be taken back to the policy makers for reconsideration. They are expecting a decision from the Solicitor's Office in early April, then the context can be finalized and a preamble written. They hope to have the whole package to the Department by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

**\*Motion to support letter, with change in second paragraph (drop “at most”), was made by DeLloyd Satterthwaite. Seconded by Hudson Glimp-all in favor.**

\* Correction will be made and Docket # added prior to mailing.

#### VI. FIELD MANAGER’S REPORTS:

\* **Jerry Smith, Field Manager, Battle Mountain** (Attachment #'s 17 & 18)

\*Fire plan will be on RAC agenda for review when it is completed.

\*There will be public meetings to inform everyone of Fire Rehab. status:

January 31<sup>st</sup>-Elko

February 1<sup>st</sup>-Battle Mountain

2<sup>nd</sup>-Winnemucca

3<sup>rd</sup>-Carson City

\*Requested funding to re-seed PJ, Aspen and interior fencing which was rejected by the Washington Office because there is a difference between emergency fire rehabilitation and restoration. The WO suggested Battle Mtn. make a restoration request to Congress. This has been done, but has not been acted upon as yet.

\*Seed mixes were done with Sage Grouse and other species in mind.

\*BLM was not consulted when routes for Yucca Mtn. Nuclear Waste Disposal site were being considered. Battle Mountain Field Office will be filing comments with the Department of Energy regarding their concerns about the chosen routes.

\* **Gene Kolkman, Field Manager, Ely** (Attachment #'s 19& 20)

\*Coordinated Resource Management group in White Pine County began a process on off-highway vehicle use in the Duckcreek Basin. Their first meeting was Wednesday night (1/19/00). Ely District is trying to develop an ethic of staying on existing trails and roads, to quit making new roads and to move more quickly in upgrading roads that are in need. A very controversial issue, but one that needs to be addressed.

\*Ely is approaching Sage Grouse on a district-wide basis, not on a county basis. We will complete habitat assessments and identify those that are meeting our objectives today, then we will develop management actions to help us sustain them. We will also identify those that are not meeting objectives or are at risk and develop actions to restore those. Priorities will be set according to the areas that need the most help, which will probably be in Lincoln County.

\*Nevada Division of Wildlife has acquired the 3C Ranch and will take possession, for the most part, in March. We still need to develop plans for the management of the ranch in conjunction with the 6,000 acres NDOW acquired and with the other 50,000 acres in the valley. We will also be conducting negotiations concerning the connected land exchange.

\*The Environmental Enhancement Coalition of Nevada(EECON) had their first meeting in Ely on January 19, 2000. This is a group of ranchers that have gotten together with a goal of exceeding the standards developed by the NEGBRAC on the land. They are a non-profit organization that is trying to get foundation money to invest on the land. Gene Kolkman, Ely Field Manager met with them and is trying to get the ranchers to change from a process-oriented grazing program to a performance-oriented program. The idea being, to agree on a set of resource objectives to be achieved on the ground and rather than the BLM telling them how to accomplish this, we would measure their performance instead. This allows them the flexibility of choosing grazing strategies that suit their needs and to use their livestock as a tool to meet our objectives. The biggest limitation of this process being, that it doesn't work for everyone.

\* **Helen Hankins; Field Manager, Elko** (Attachment #s 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26)

\*About to put out the final Multiple-Use Decision on the Salmon River Allotment. It is expected to be out for review by the end of February.

\*Formal consultation under Section 7 is being done on the Little Humbolt Allotment to determine whether or not the BLM's decision will adversely affect Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.

\*Weed inventory and treatment is continuing in cooperation with the Elko County Conservation District. UNR will be fielding 5 graduate students in Elko County with funds received from the Arid Lands Restoration Initiative, who will be evaluating the inventory done by the BLM in 1998 and doing inventory on land that may not have been done by the BLM. The information will be used to determine where additional treatments are needed.

\*Last fire-season helped BLM to realize the need for cooperation between the Overhead Teams, local firefighters and the local public. Meetings will be held in mid-February to look at better ways to interface these groups.

## VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

\* Hudson Glimp-UNR. The Dean from the College of Agriculture, went to Senator Reid with a proposal for the Arid Rangeland Initiative which they put together with input from BLM and others. Some money was made available and UNR is working very closely with Bob Abbey and some of the Field Managers to come up with projects. They are currently working on a project that gathers data on grazing of newly seeded burn areas vs. non-grazing and not seeding other areas at all. UNR is also gathering information for a Noxious Weed map and information on the economic impact of noxious weeds in Elko County which they hope will lead to mapping of the entire state.

\* Noxious Weed infestation is the most serious issue facing the Great Basin today. To date, there have been no great success stories about fighting noxious weeds, mainly because no one has gotten serious about it. If we don't get on top of the noxious weed issue, we won't have any wildlife habitats to worry about; all we'll have is exotic plants.

\* Battle Mountain District has been issuing Pesticide Use Permits (PUP's) to the counties so that they don't have to get permission to spray every time they see a noxious weed.



- \* Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation Reports for Emergency Fire Rehab addressed noxious weeds. Funding was made available for monitoring, detection and treatment of noxious weeds in current rehab areas.
- \* Final approved copy of the Wild Horse & Burro Standards & Guidelines was distributed. (Attachment #27)
- \* The Great Basin Restoration Initiative: Curtis will make sure everyone receives a copy prior to the next meeting so that it can be discussed in greater detail.
- \* Next meeting was scheduled for 9AM, Friday, May 5, 2000 at the Ely Field Office.
- \* **Public Comment Period-**
  - \*Tebeau Piquet, Northwest Sierra RAC (Attachment #28)-Trying to send message to Congress concerning National Conservation Areas. They would like to see management of Public Lands left to the land management agencies.
- \* **Motion was made by Patsy Tomera to adjourn. Seconded by DeLoyd Satterthwaite-all in favor.**
- \* The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bill Upton.

MINUTES APPROVED:

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Mr. Bill Upton, Chairman

Date

Minutes by:

Mrs. Debi Martin, Contact Representative, Ely

- \* Other Attachments: #29, News Release-OHV Management Strategy

